



April



2014

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

New Store Hours

Starting April 1st the Depot Store hours are 9:30am-4:30pm

April 1

Railtown Ladies Luncheon 11:30am @ Patty's Shack
Call Marge 533-4595

April 5

Excursion Train Season Begins, Great Motherlode Brass & Reed Band entertains from 10am-2pm

April 6

The Brothers Strong & Co. Will entertain, 11am-3pm

April 12

Fire Patrol Class 8am-5pm
In the Carpenters Shop

April 12

Wildflower Train

April 12 & 13

Home & Garden Show

April 19

Fire Patrol Class (repeat)

April 19

Wildflower Train

May 6

Railtown Ladies Luncheon 11:30am @ Papa's Roost
Call Marge 533-4595

May 10

National Train Day
Special events



Our 5th Annual Singing Rails Festival will feature the music of Woody Guthrie by the Wailin' Woody's

A History of The Sierra Railway 4-6-0 No. 3

By Kyle Wyatt (continued from March)

Sierra no. 3 is best known today for its role in movies. Its first documented use in this service was on May 26, 1919 in the first movie filmed on the Sierra Railway, *The Red Glove*. No. 3 made a brief appearance in a train robbery scene using the regular passenger train. It also appeared in a 1929 motion picture milestone, *The Virginian*, the first sound movie filmed outside a studio. Filming was on May 20-21 around Cooperstown. It was used again in 1930 in *The Texan*, but after that the Sierra Ry. used 2-8-0 no. 18 as the regular movie engine.

The Depression years were slim times for the Sierra Railway. It went bankrupt in 1932, and was reorganized as the Sierra Railroad in 1937. 4-6-0 no. 3 spent the years in retirement on a spur next to the turntable, out of service.

In 1946 the movie, *Duel in the Sun* was being shot on the Sierra. The film company wanted to restore old no.3 to service for the film, including using it in a spectacular wreck scene at the end. Sierra Railroad Master Mechanic Bill Tremewan preferred to keep no. 3 in one piece, but the movie interest may have sparked the decision to return the locomotive to movie service. It was taken into the shops and rebuilt over the next several years. On May 30, 1948 it returned to work, pulling a railway & locomotive historical society special excursion train.

Locomotive no. 3 served as a second movie engine from 1950 until January 1952, after which it assumed the primary movie duties. Engine no.18 was withdrawn from service in 1952 for a much needed overhaul, and the following year was quietly retired. One high point was on September 26, 1951, when *High Noon* was filmed at Warnerville with no. 3 pulling the train into town. Other film highlights for no. 3 include *The Great Race* in 1966, and *Bound For Glory* in 1976. In all no. 3 has appeared in well over 30 movies.

The engine has also starred on television, including *The Lone Ranger* and *Tales of Wells Fargo* in the 1950s; *Petticoat Junction*, *Rawhide*, *Lassie*, and *The Man from Uncle* in the 1960s; and *Gunsmoke*, *Bonanza*, and *Little House on the Prairie* in the 1970s. Over the years there have also been frequent appearances in documentaries, and numerous advertisements.

Change came to the Sierra Railroad in 1979. The Crocker family, long time controlling owners of the line, announced their intention to sell their interests. In a complex deal, the railroad was sold to a group of investors based in Chicago. The Jamestown shop complex, along with the movie and excursion equipment, was not included in the sale of the railroad. Instead, it was sold to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, becoming Railtown 1897 State Historic Park in 1982.

(*Editor's Note: We've included this reprint from Kyle's 1992 article to share some of the no. 3's earlier history. The no. 3 went on from there to star in *Back To The Future III*, *The Unforgiven*, *Bonanza*, *The Next Generation*, and *Bad Girls*. It made a short appearance in a TV pilot in 1996 and was retired from service shortly after needing repair).

Volunteer Profiles

At Railtown, we have an incredibly interesting group of volunteers from all kinds of backgrounds. This month we'd like everyone to say hello to Lowell Kraft, who has volunteered since 2002. He was raised on a dairy farm in the Mohawk Valley in upstate New York. He left home at age 16 and worked odd jobs, until winning a scholarship to go to business school. He continued his education gaining a business degree in 1955 at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. After that he spent many years teaching business and English for the Department of Defense in countries such as Germany, Bahrain, Turkey and Japan. He retired in 1989 and eventually moved to Tuolumne County in 1994. Even after retirement he continued teaching part time and works 2 or 3 days a week substitute teaching at Sonora and Summerville High Schools. Lowell enjoys traveling a lot and also spends time each year at his condominium in Kizkalesi, Turkey. It's incredibly beautiful there with two medieval castles from the Christian crusader era in view, crystal clear water you can see down 20 feet, an ancient Roman city, and lots of remnants of ancient Greek culture. Lowell also volunteers as a housing host for the actors and actresses of the Sierra Repertory Theater. He often brings small groups of them to Railtown and enjoys seeing the thrill they receive riding our trains. I asked him what he loves most about Railtown: "I love all the staff and volunteers and I love the movie history the most. I like the feeling of stepping back in time." I also asked him, out of all his travels, where was the most interesting place he's been. "I'd have to say Bahrain, where I had to teach as many as 36 nationalities in class. I also had dinner with the King of Bahrain." Thank you Lowell for your contribution to Railtown 1897 State Historic Park!



Lowell posing in front of Stalin's personal train in Gori, Georgia

What's up With the Movie Exhibit? (from Lisa DeLacy/ Curator I)



Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who took time to review the draft panels of the new exhibit. Your comments and input are vital to our success as we near the final stage of the exhibit make-over. Our donors will soon be able to see their photographic expertise and fund raising efforts at work, and our visitors and tour guides will be enjoying an updated colorful exhibit that will be a true highlight of their tours. If you haven't been "in the know", here is where we are heading with the final push to completion.

The exhibit flow will be reversed, so that entry into the shed will be on the *Back to the Future* caboose side. This is going to enable the tour to walk through a time progression, beginning with the *Red Glove* and ending with a summary that explains that all these movies are the reason Railtown exists today. Along the timeline, smoke stacks and other props will be placed in their respective time frame. This is going to enable us to bring back some of the old depot signs that are still in good condition. The large scenic from *Brisco County, Jr.* will be moved to the end wall, and visitors will still be able to have the photo opportunity of standing in front of it. Several smoke stacks will be painted, and we need volunteers to help this happen. The paint will protect them for years to come, so see Lisa if you like grinding off rust and spray painting! This can happen over time, but it needs to be done for preservation. (continue next page)



Railtown News

'Telling The Railtown Story' Series to Continue

We will be continuing the training series 'Telling The Railtown Story' for the benefit of all volunteers, staff and new volunteers joining us mid season. These sessions will usually occur on the last Saturday of each month. On April 26, volunteer and historian Joe Sparagna will give his presentation on the history of Jamestown. Joe has given this presentation a number of times in recent years, and it is always interesting and full of good information. Please join us on Saturday, April 26 from 8am to 9:30am. The class will end in time for everyone to start their normal assigned activities for the day.

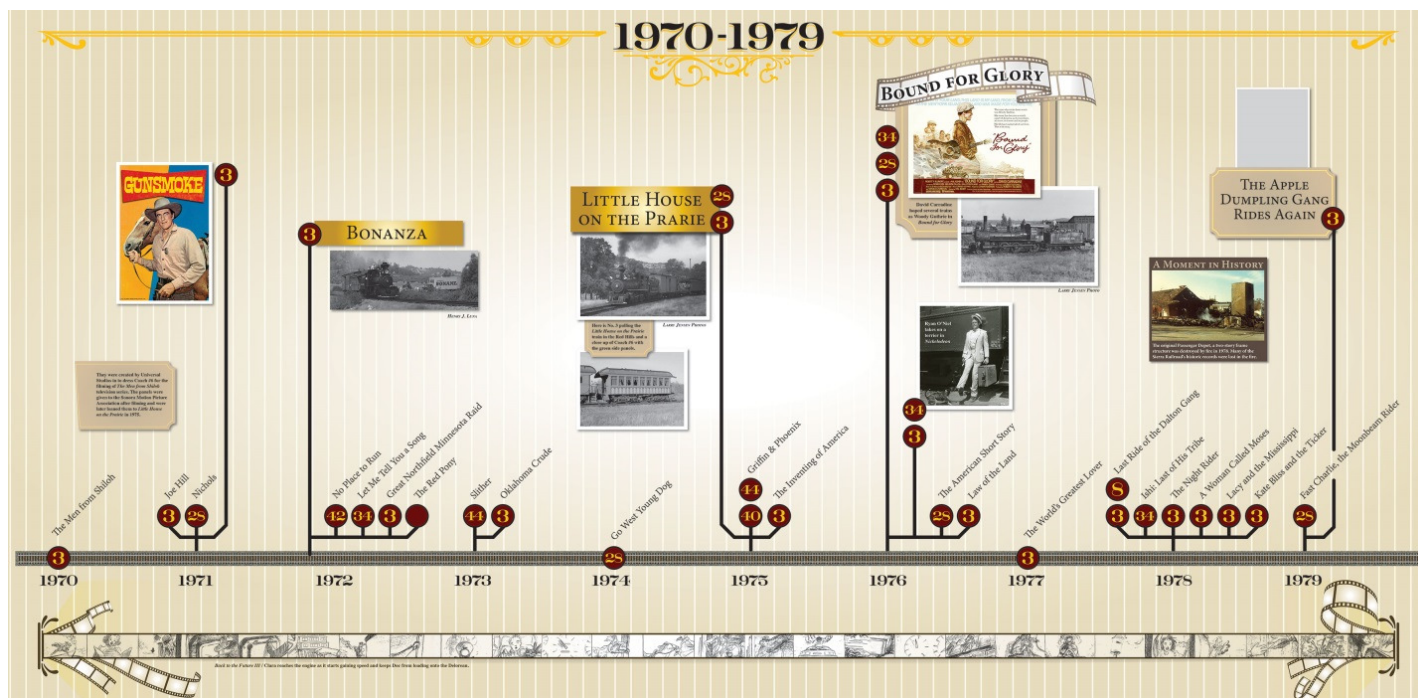


Using the S.H.A.R.E.S Card Helps To Keep Railtown Rolling!

Columbia volunteer David Kelley wants to remind us all to use our Shares cards at Savemart. Every grocery purchase contributes to funds, which are collected by the Sonora Area Foundation. David reminds us how it works: Present your card to the cashier before he or she starts scanning the groceries. That's all there is to it. Special points add up and at the end of each quarter SaveMart sends a check to Ed Wylie at the Sonora Foundation, who in turn puts it into the Railtown account. The account currently has \$1000 in it and more will add up, the more of us use it. Help keep Railtown rolling and use the card. If you need one, just ask at the Depot Store. David also will be joining us on opening weekend and can answer any questions you may have.

(The Movie Exhibit continued)

There will still be room for improvement after the initial refurbish project is in place. So you will see some of the props that are looking so tired and worn slowly removed and reproduced. This will enable us to preserve what we can of the originals. If you have carpentry expertise, or would like to be involved in some way, give Lisa a call or flag her down and chat! Our success as always, depends on our volunteers and donors.



The new movie exhibit will feature a cinematic time line



PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408
Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>
Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com
Newsletter Editor— Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209)

Kim Baker , Park Superintendent	984-4622	Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov
George Sapp , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov
Lisa DeLacy , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov
Diana Fisher , Park Aide & Social Media Specialist	984-0352	Diana.Fisher@parks.ca.gov
Karen Kling , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov
Ryan Richelson , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	Ryan.Richelson@parks.ca.gov
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-8702	Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-8702	Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
Carl Rudolph , Fire Patrol Coordinator	586-9905	cakr@sonnet.com
Karen Ethier , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	kmethier@gmail.com

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request